Replaced By Article 19

CLAIMS

1 A method for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of the terminal from a first wireless network to a second wireless network, comprising the steps of:

receiving in the second wireless network from the mobile wireless terminal a temporary identity information previously used by the mobile wireless terminal to access the first wireless network;

identifying a serving node in the first wireless network that last served the mobile wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the second wireless network in accordance with the temporary identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal in the second wireless network;

forwarding the temporary identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the last-accessed serving node in the first wireless network for identification;

receiving from the last-accessed serving node in the first wireless network an identification response indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly identified; and

validating the mobile terminal in accordance with the identification response.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the temporary identifier information further comprising the step of receiving a Packet Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area Identifier (RAI).

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the step of identifying the serving node in the first wireless network further comprises the step of identifying the serving node in accordance with the RAI received from the mobile wireless terminal.

4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a logical address information from the mobile wireless terminal; and

accessing a Domain Naming System (DNS) server to identify the serving node in accordance with the logical address.

5. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of providing an error message when the serving node cannot identify the mobile wireless terminal from the temporary identity information.

6. A method for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of the terminal from a wireless telephony network to a wireless Local Area Network (LAN), comprising the steps of:
receiving in the wireless LAN from the mobile wireless terminal identity information previously used by the mobile wireless terminal to access the wireless telephony network;
identifying a serving node in the wireless telephony network that last served the mobile wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the wireless LAN in accordance with the identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal in the wireless LAN;
forwarding the identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the last-accessed serving node in the wireless telephony network for identification;
receiving from the last-accessed serving node in the wireless telephony network an identification response indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly identified; and
validating the mobile terminal in accordance with the identification response.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the temporary identifier information further comprises the step of receiving a Packet Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area Identifier (RAI).

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the step of identifying the serving node in the first wireless network further comprises the step of identifying the serving node in accordance with the RAI received from the mobile wireless terminal.

9. The method according to claim 8 further comprises the steps of:
receiving a logical address information from the mobile wireless terminal; and

accessing a Domain Naming System (DNS) server to identify the serving node in accordance with the logical address.

10. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of providing an error message when the serving node cannot identify the mobile wireless terminal from the temporary identity information.

11. A wireless telephony network for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of the terminal from the wireless telephony network to a wireless Local Area Network (LAN), comprising:

a serving node for identifying the mobile wireless terminal upon access to the wireless telephony network; and

an access server for receiving from the wireless LAN temporary identity information from the mobile wireless terminal previously used by the terminal to access the wireless telephony network and for identifying the serving node in the first wireless network that last served the mobile wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the second wireless network by forwarding the identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the serving node for identification and from the identification response, the access server indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly identified and forwarding such response to the wireless LAN.

12. The network according to claim 11 wherein the identity information further comprises a Packet Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area Identifier (RAI) received from the mobile wireless terminal.

13. The network according to claim 11 wherein the access server has its own RAI distinct from an RAI assigned to the serving node.